

the children who are down there. We should care about the innocent people.

If we do not care about that, we should care because Haiti is on our doorstep. Haiti is not going to go away. It is there. We should be concerned about it. We should be concerned because Haiti is becoming a transshipment area for drugs into the United States. And we should be concerned because of the boat people who could begin to float back up to Miami where our Coast Guard will again have to turn them around.

So Haiti is of significance to the United States. It always will be because of its geographical location. We will always have to be concerned. We have had U.S. troops down there twice in the last decade. In the last century, we have been involved numerous times. Unless the situation changes quickly in the next several weeks, we are going to have to be involved again.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DEVIN GRELLA

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor this afternoon to pay tribute to a brave soldier and fellow Ohioan. PFC Devin Grella from Medina lost his life on September 6, 2004, when an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle near Qarrahah, Iraq. Devin was 21 years old.

When I think about the dedication of our men and women in uniform, I am reminded of something President Ronald Reagan once said about the devotion to freedom. This is what he said:

Freedom is a fragile thing, and it is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance. It must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people.

Devin embodied the spirit of freedom President Reagan so eloquently described. He sacrificed his life so we can continue to be free and so the people of Iraq can have the chance to know the freedoms we hold so dear. His dedication to and love for his country knew no bounds.

Growing up in Medina, Devin loved music and he loved to play the violin, the piano, and the guitar. As one of four boys, Devin was also known for his outgoing personality. Devin's brother Darrin remembers his brother as always having a good time.

Devin attended Medina High School his freshman, sophomore, and senior years, and Archbishop Hoban High School for his junior year. He was a very actively involved student who sang in the choir, ran cross country, and played on the lacrosse team with his younger brother Drew. Lacrosse coach Pat O'Brien described Devin as "a good athlete and a strong kid whom the other players looked up to. You could tell he was having the time of his life when he was on the field."

Off the field, Devin was known for his playful personality. Brother Darrin described the time when Devin intro-

duced himself to Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James as "Debron James," since James was his middle name. Known to family and friends as "Deuce"—a reference to his favorite number—Devin was a great guy to have around.

After graduation in 2002, Devin worked at Donato's Pizza, a local restaurant. Adam Stout, a manager at the restaurant, described Devin as a hard worker and a great morale booster who would like to laugh, tell jokes, and make other people laugh.

Indeed, wherever he went, Devin made people smile. He wanted to earn money for college, and out of a sense of patriotism and with a dream of becoming an officer, Devin joined the Army Reserves in December 2003. He was assigned to the 706th Transportation Company out of Mansfield, OH. After completing basic training, Devin was deployed to Iraq in June 2004.

While serving overseas, Devin made a lasting impression on his superiors. Platoon leader 2LT Timothy Searcy noted that Devin was "very motivated and dedicated to his job. He set an example."

Army MAJ Willie Harris described Devin as a dedicated soldier "who was always willing to take on a challenge . . . and who believed in what he was doing."

Devin was doing extremely dangerous work. In Iraq, Devin and his unit were tasked with delivering fuels and supplies to U.S. troops, including during heavy combat with U.S. troops and insurgents at Najaf. He regularly sent e-mails to his family, many of which describe the constant threat of roadside bombings and firefights.

Tragically, a roadside bomb took the life of this brave young man. An IED exploded near Devin's convoy when his unit was resupplying other troops. On that tragic day, our Nation lost a great soldier. More importantly, Donna and Dennis Grella lost a great son; Dustin, Darrin, and Drew lost a great brother; and so many others lost a great friend.

In an e-mail message posted on an Internet tribute to Devin, friend Adam Feeks, from Medina, wrote the following to Devin:

I remember meeting you for the first time in 3rd grade on the basketball court. We became the best of friends shortly thereafter, and our days of watching the Bulls and Cavs games together are days I will never forget. Our unhealthy, but fun obsessions with Mark Price and Michael Jordan will last a lifetime. The memories we shared will never be forgotten. . . . I remember the last thing I said to you. I told you how proud I was of you, and how much I loved you, and that you could tell me all about it when you get back. That day will not come anytime soon. Just know I think about you all the time. Anytime I pick up a ball or step on the football field, it is for you. In my heart is where I keep you friend.

Devin's father, a former Marine, said this about Devin: He loved his church. He loved his family. He loved his country." Dennis also said that the key thing that must be learned from his

son's death is how brave and valiant [Devin] was to give, so that we—you and I and all of us—can have freedom."

Devin's mother remembers her son's enthusiasm and love for life. She remarked that her family's faith helps them find peace. She knows that Devin's death "is just a separation." She said, "We will be together again. It helps you go on. You know you will see him again."

At the service held in Devin's honor at the Medina chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Devin's older brother, Darrin, decided to address the crowd because he wanted people to know about his brave and heroic brother. Darrin reflected on a conversation with Devin about his plans to join the Army Reserves and emphasized how proud he was of his brother. He told those gathered that it was an honor to have been [Devin's] brother."

It was indeed an honor for all those who knew Devin. He touched countless lives. Though words will never be enough to express our gratitude for Devin's sacrifice, a simple phrase on his gravestone is able to describe his life and this is what it says: Devin James Grella . . . Loves his Mom/Loves our God/Called to serve.

ARMY SPECIALIST JESSE BURYJ

Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fellow Ohioan, a young man from Canton, whose courage and selflessness knew no bounds. On May 5, 2004, Army SPC Jesse Buryj gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers, to protect the American people, and to protect Iraqis whom he barely knew. He was 21 years old.

Jesse Buryj enlisted in the Army as a way to help him pursue a dream, and that was the dream of someday becoming a police officer. The creed of any police officer is to serve and protect. Jesse didn't just pledge that motto, he lived by it.

Jesse grew up playing kickball and baseball in the street with the other kids of his tight-knit community. Like many active young boys, Jesse experienced his share of broken bones and knocked out teeth. His mother, Peggy, recalls that the nurses in the emergency room at Mercy Medical Center knew him well.

Jesse stood apart, though, from many of the boys his age. He was a particularly well-mannered, well-rounded young man. Angela, Jesse's sister, remembered that her little brother wouldn't wait to be found out if he did something wrong. He used to go ahead and tell on himself.

Jesse attended Canton McKinley High School and was a Bulldog to his core. He played the baritone in the school band, where, on several memorable occasions, he left his indelible mark. Jesse was the first baritone to dot the "I" in the school's Script Ohio formation and was a sight to see at the Massillon-McKinley football game when he draped himself in Christmas lights.

Though dedicated to the band, Jesse didn't spend all his time during practices concentrating on the music. A certain piccolo player, named Amber Tichenor caught his eye. It didn't take long before the two became high school sweethearts. Those around them noticed that they seemed meant for each other right from the start of their days together in the band, so much so that their band director, Ed Arrington, married them in October 2003.

Jesse looked forward to his life together with Amber, still holding onto the dream he had cultivated since the third grade of becoming a police officer in the same department where he served as a cadet throughout high school. Jesse knew that he would not be old enough upon high school graduation to attend the police academy. Not deterred by this, he decided to enlist in the Army to gain experience as a military police officer first. Jesse enlisted in the Army and became an MP.

Family and friends recalled how committed Jesse was to training the summer before his enlistment. He wanted to enter the service as ready as he could be. In September 2002, he was placed with the Army's 66th Military Police Company stationed in Fort Lewis, WA. Before his deployment to Iraq, Jesse worked as a guard at the Pentagon and trained as a paratrooper. While in Iraq, Jesse guarded military checkpoints.

During his all too brief life, Jesse made a huge impact on his friends at home and on his fellow service members. That was very clear to me upon reading several of the e-mail messages that people posted on an Internet tribute to Jesse following his death in Iraq. I would like to read from two of the many e-mails.

SGT Michael D'Saachs from the Military Police Company in Fort Lewis wrote the following:

It's been a year since you were taken from our brotherhood. I will never forget you, my friend. I hope that you will watch over all of us and keep us safe. I never got to thank you for all the tips you gave me before I went to school. We all miss you.

A friend named Matt had this to say:

Jesse—you were the best friend anyone could ask for. I still cannot believe you are gone. Thank you for listening to me when I had problems. Nobody will ever replace you as my battle buddy or best friend. I love you and cannot wait to see you again.

During the military ceremony held in his honor, Jesse's commanders repeatedly spoke of his bravery and sense of responsibility. GEN Dennis Moran said that "as a military police officer, his first job was to serve and protect. He trusted his life to those soldiers as they trusted theirs to him."

Lieutenant Colonel Tatum also spoke fondly of Jesse saying that he gave no ground and showed no fear.

Matthew Beadoin, the best man at Jesse's wedding, described his closest friend as the "bravest person, friend, and soldier [I've] ever known." Others recalled his immense compassion and how much fun he was to just be around.

In memory of this true American hero, the flag was lowered to half-staff at Canton McKinley High School and a memorial to Jesse was placed in the band room. During the funeral procession, members of the community lined the street to show their support for Jesse's family.

I conclude my remarks by reading from an e-mail message that Allen Vandayburg of Mansfield, OH, left on that Internet tribute to Jesse. I have met Allen Vandayburg. I met him and his wife when I attended the calling hours for their 20-year-old son, Army SPC A.J. Vandayburg, who was killed in Iraq a short time before Jesse.

He wrote the following:

We are so sorry for your loss. . . . We also know [your] pain. We lost our son in Iraq. There are no words and the pain is forever, but just know you are not alone in your grief, as we well found out. Not only did we lose a child, but America lost a hero. I am a police officer, and it sounds like Jesse would have made a fine Officer, as we already know he was a great soldier. Remember—you are not alone.

My wife, Fran, and I continue to keep Jesse's wife, Amber; his parents, Steve and Peggy; and his sister, Angela, in our thoughts and in our prayers.

STAFF SERGEANT OMER T. HAWKINS

Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to a fellow Ohioan and a true American hero. On October 14, 2004, SSG Omer "O.T." Hawkins, from Cherry Fork in Adams County, gave his life in service to our Nation. He was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle outside Ar Ramadi, Iraq. O.T. was 31 years old.

When we think about the sacrifices of our servicemen and women, we should remember what President Ronald Reagan said in his first inaugural address. He said that "no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

SSG O.T. Hawkins lived these words. He loved this country more than anything else and was proud to serve in protection of it. He knew the potential costs and dangers of military service, but he never shied away. Family and friends will forever remember O.T.'s dedication to the cause of freedom and his commitment to bringing that freedom to people around the world.

O.T. knew from a young age that he wanted to join the Army. When he was just 10 years old, he composed a three sentence letter to the Army written in cursive. In it, he wrote: Do you take 10 year-old boys? If you do, I will come and sign up. Please, can I join?" O.T. asked his mother, Lisa, to mail his letter. Instead, she safely tucked it away into her Bible.

O.T.'s mother still has that letter today, 22 years later.

When O.T. was a kid, even the games he played were geared toward joining the military. His friend, Russell Todd, knew O.T. since their days in elementary school together. He remembers

that all O.T. ever talked about was joining the Army. The two young boys used to play war games on a hill outside Cherry Fork.

At North Adams High School, O.T. was known as a quiet kid, but one who enjoyed the occasional prank and practical joke. Russell Todd also remembers the time the two decided to ride the carousel horses at K-Mart, at 4 in the morning. Though he loved to have fun, O.T. also had a serious side, being voted as "most likely to succeed" by the rest of his senior class.

O.T.'s teachers describe him as that rare student who could combine humor with intellect and determination. History teacher, Tom Breeze, remembers O.T. as a scholar and voracious reader, who would skim through an almanac or encyclopedia "looking for bits of information because he just liked to learn." O.T. played baseball and was on the debate team. And, though he could have pursued just about any career he wanted after high school, the military remained his number one love and life-long goal.

Just 2 days after his high school graduation and 8 years after he wrote that priceless letter to the Army expressing his desire to join, O.T. enlisted in the Army. Not only was he following his dream, O.T. was following in the footsteps of his father, William, who had been an engineer with the Marines until he passed away from a brain aneurysm in 1977.

Once in the Army, O.T. was recognized by his superiors as a passionate and capable soldier. Having served on tours of duty in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Kosovo, and Somalia, O.T. was a deeply respected and beloved superior. As a member of the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, stationed in Camp Howze in Korea, O.T. saw it as his mission to keep his men safe. After all, O.T. considered his comrades to be family. His fellow soldiers felt the same.

Army Specialist Justin Malzac wrote the following in an email message posted on an Internet tribute to O.T. after his death:

I had the honor to serve in the same company and platoon as Staff Sergeant Hawkins. His aura always gave great hope to his soldiers. He was a stunning leader and a great man, I am just thankful to have known him. He has left a permanent impact on me. Rest in peace, "Mother Hen."

O.T. Hawkins' life was tragically cut short less than 2 weeks into his deployment as platoon leader. When he died, Our Nation lost a great soldier. But, more importantly, O.T.'s family lost a great son, brother, and uncle.

I had the privilege of meeting O.T.'s family and friends at the memorial service held in his honor. I want to thank them for sharing their memories with me. After speaking with them, it is clear that this extraordinary young man believed in his service and lost his life doing what he truly loved. I know that O.T. lives in their memories.

His mother, Lisa, fondly recalls that when O.T.'s nephew was born, O.T.

tucked a tiny American flag into the baby's curled fist.

His brother—Missouri National Guardsman, James "Buck" Hawkins—will cherish the letters O.T. sent in support of his duty and service to our Nation.

His sister, Cherry, will remember the brother she treated more like a son.

They all find solace in knowing that O.T. now peacefully rests alongside another great man and dedicated serviceman—O.T.'s dad, William.

We will never forget SSG Omer T. Hawkins.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I opposed the Ensign and McCain amendments Nos. 1219 and 1171 to the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, H.R. 2360.

These amendments would have shifted \$566 million from grants for first responders, including our State and local police officers, firefighters, and emergency health providers, to provide for an increase in detention beds and border security personnel. Those cuts in first responder funds would have been in addition to the \$467 million in first responder cuts already included in the underlying bill, resulting in a cut of 43 percent below fiscal year 2005. Such a cut in funding for equipping and training our first responders at a time when the Nation is at risk of a terrorist attack would not be appropriate. In addition, the Ensign amendment would have provided new spending power to the Homeland Security Secretary, which is not necessary or appropriate.

Having successfully sponsored an amendment to the fiscal year 2005 Iraq supplemental that added 500 Border Patrol agents, 218 immigration investigators, and detention officers, and 1,950 detention beds, and having worked closely with Chairman GREGG to see that the underlying bill includes robust funding for our border security, I know that such efforts can be achieved without cutting vital funds for our first responders or providing new spending authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Indeed, if the amendments were adopted, the funds would likely have sat in the Treasury because the Department could not hire and train more personnel than the levels provided in the committee bill.

That is why I, along with a bipartisan majority of the Senate, joined with the chairman to oppose these amendments.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to add my thoughts to the debate

on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006.

First, I want to preface my remarks by applauding the chairman and ranking member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee for their work on this important bill. They worked within very difficult constraints and had to make incredibly difficult tradeoffs in deciding where to place our homeland security spending priorities. The fight against terrorism is our number one priority and this appropriations bill is a key component in that fight.

We have been debating this important bill in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in London. Those horrible attacks served as yet another reminder of the importance of working with our allies to defeat terrorist networks. This tragic event also reminds us of how much we rely on our first responders and the employees of the Department of Homeland Security to keep us safe. I want to thank these brave men and women who work daily to protect this Nation. They are on the front lines of the fight against terrorism. They are the ones who are called on to stop and respond to any future attack upon our Nation. This bill includes important resources these brave men and women need to perform their critical tasks.

I was pleased that the Senate adopted my amendment requiring the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on its use of data-mining in fiscal year 2006. This amendment will provide the American people with critical information about the use of and plans for data-mining technology and the way highly personal information, like credit reports, travel records and other personal information, may be obtained and used by our Government. This amendment will not stop any data-mining—it simply requires the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on any data-mining programs it is using or developing and how these programs implicate the civil liberties and privacy of all Americans. With complete information, the American people will be able to make considered judgments about which programs should and should not go forward.

I was also pleased that the Senate adopted an amendment that I cosponsored that was offered by Senator VOINOVICH. This amendment increases funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants, EMPG, by \$10 million to \$190 million, which is \$20 million more than requested by the President. The EMPG program is crucial in assisting State and local officials in preparing for all-hazards emergencies. The program provides emergency managers with the resources they need to increase coordination and planning so that if an emergency occurs, State and local officials will respond much more efficiently and effectively. Although this boost in funding

does not fully address the \$264 million shortfall identified last year by the National Emergency Management Association, it is an important step in the right direction.

Unfortunately, not all of our first responder programs fared as well. Many, including firefighter grants and State homeland security grants, were significantly cut. This bill also has less funding for transit security than last year's Senate bill and bipartisan efforts to increase that funding to levels authorized by the Senate last year unfortunately failed. Although I am very disappointed with the major cuts to first responder programs and the failure to increase transit funding, I believe this bill accomplishes a lot within the budgetary constraints in which it operates. It goes a long way towards improving our border security and to combating the multitude of evolving threats faced by our Nation. However, I regret that it does not go far enough.

Let me explain. I strongly agree with the distinguished chairman when he said that Congress must decide on the budget priorities within the context of a reasonable budget for national defense and homeland security. We must answer the question: Do our national security budget priorities most effectively address the threats we face? I believe that this homeland security bill does a reasonably good job within its limited budget allocation. However, within the broader context of our overall national security spending, our priorities are abysmally out of touch with reality. For example, we continue to spend \$8 billion to \$10 billion a year on an unproven missile defense system. Those figures suggest that this troubled program is almost twice as important to our Nation's security as Customs and Border Protection, three times more important than the entire Transportation Security Administration, and three times more important than the combined funding for our first responders, ports, transit, and rail security. It is time to take a broader view when it comes to our national security budget priorities and make the tradeoffs that must be made.

I supported several amendments that would have added funding for critical security needs not fully addressed in this bill. I must point out again this year that I do not take lightly my decision to vote in favor of spending more money. Fiscal responsibility is one of my highest priorities and I constantly look for ways to limit government spending. I am honored that the Concord Coalition and others have recognized me for my efforts in this regard. Although fiscal responsibility remains one of my top priorities, it is imperative that we provide the resources needed to combat terrorism.

I voted for this bill because it provides funding for many important security needs. However, our Nation's vulnerabilities demand more and I will continue to work to ensure that our vital homeland security needs are met.